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REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, and 12 are ponding in the subject application. Applicant has hereinabove amended claim 1. Accordingly, upon entry of this Second Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, and 12 will still be pending and under examination.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found, inter alia, in the specification as follows: page 19, line 30 to page 20, line 6; page 22, lines 17-35; page 20, lines 15-23; and page 23, lines 9-13.

Applicant maintains that these amendments to claim 1 do not raise any issue of new matter, and that claim 1, as amended, is fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

January 18, 2005 Examiner's Interview

On January 18, 2005, applicant's undersigned attorney, Alan J. Morrison, Esq. had a telephonic interview with Examiner Schnizer concerning applicant's Preliminary Amendment filed on November 12, 2004 with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his time and consideration during the interview.

During the January 18, 2005 interview, the Examiner and Mr. Morrison agreed that claim 1, as amended herein, would be in condition for allowance. Further, applicant understands that claims 3-5 will be in condition for

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allowance upon entry of this Amendment, and claims 8, 9 and 12 are already allowed.

Summary

Applicants maintain that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, and look forward to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicant's undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the number provided below.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Second Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

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